

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 171845

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT JAKARTA 8989 ACTION SECSTATE DATED JULY 6, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 8989

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID
SUBJECT: INVITATION FOR U.S. OFFICIAL TO VISIT EAST TIMOR

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED INFORMAL SOUNDINGS FROM GENERAL MURDANI'S OFFICE AS TO WHETHER THE AMBASSADOR, OR IN HIS ABSENCE TO CHARGE, WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT SUHARTO ON A TWO TO THREE DAY VISIT TO EAST TIMOR STARTING JULY 16. THE VISIT WOULD APPARENTLY BE LIMITED TO DILI AND BALCAU. WHILE WE LACK FULL DETAILS, SUHARTO WILL USE THIS OCCASION TO OPEN THE DILI AIRPORT TO REGULAR CIVILIAN TRAFFIC AND WILL PROBABLY PARTICIPATE IN A NUMBER OF OTHER CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE COORDINATING MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN
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AFFAIRS, INFORMATION, AND INTERIOR.

2. THE GOI WILL REPORTEDLY INVITE CHIEFS OF MISSION FROM THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, THE OTHER FOUR ASEAN MEMBERS, AND SEVERAL OTHERS WHOM THEY REGARD AS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE INDONESIAN POSITION ON EAST TIMOR. THEY WILL, IN ADDITION, INVITE A NUMBER OF THOSE WHO HAVE

NOT ACCEPTED INTEGRATION OF EAST TIMOR INTO INDONESIA
IN THE HOPES THAT SOME OF THEM WOULD ATTEND AND THEREBY
ACCORD DE FACTO RECOGNITION TO THE STATUS QUO. OUR SOURCES
HAVE REPORTED THAT A FORMAL INVITATION WILL NOT
REPEAT NOT BE EXTENDED TO US IF WE INDICATE THAT IT WOULD
NOT BE ACCEPTED.

3. WE HAVE REPLIED TO MURDANI'S OFFICE ON AN INTERIM
BASIS THAT THE AMBASSADOR IS LEAVING JAKARTA ON
JULY 15 AND THAT IT WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT THEREFORE BE
POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MAKE THE TRIP. THEY HAVE ASKED, IN
HIS ABSENCE, IF THE CHARGE WOULD ACCEPT. WOULD
APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE BEFORE REPLYING. OUR
RECOMMENDATION IS THAT WE ACCEPT, SUBJECT TO ACCEPTANCE
BY SOME OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION SO THAT WE ARE NOT
ALONE. THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR, WHILE APPARENTLY NOT
YET AWARE OF THIS FORTHCOMING INVITATION, HAS ALREADY TOLD THE
AMBASSADOR THAT HE HOPES SOON TO VISIT EAST TIMOR. OUR
ESTIMATE WOULD BE THAT HE WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT THIS INVITATION
IF IT IS EXTENDED. ARGUING IN FAVOR OF OUR ACCEPTANCE IS THE
FACT THAT WE DO NOT CONTEST
THE INCORPORATION OF EAST TIMOR INTO INDONESIA;
THAT CONGRESSMEN AND U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY
VISITED THE AREA; THAT THIS WOULD BE AN OFFICIAL INVITATION
FROM PRESIDENT SUHARTO; AND THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP
WOULD BE DESIGNED TO OPEN DILI AIRPORT TO REGULAR COMMERCIAL
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TRAFFIC AND TAKE OTHER STEPS DESIGNED TO NORMALIZE THE
SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR.

4. REQUEST IMMEDIATE GUIDANCE.
MASTERS UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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